

LAVENDER



Illinois Extension
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN



Growing Lavender

Lavender comes in several varieties: Spanish, French, English. The word in Latin means to wash=larvae. It is used in soaps and lotions.

The plant itself is an herb which you can use as a border or in a rock garden. It is very hardy and can thrive in dry infertile soils in the Midwest. It needs good drainage and no fertilizer. It is an easy one and takes very little care. It is basically insect and disease tolerant, so why have it? As stated, the plant can be used in soaps and other washing products. It, also, can be used in cooking and baking—put it in cookies for a tasty treat.

The English lavender may be cut and dried and used in the home as a fragrance. Also, English lavender is used for oil of lavender which some people put in their candles for scent.

Lavender grows in Zone 5 - 6B, so we in the Midwest can grow it very easily. It may grow 1 - 2 feet. When it gets near to fall, you may just want to lop this perennial way down to about 3 inches or so. It does drop its spent flowers and can be a little messy. Your hands will smell great though.

Plant lavender in spring in full sun and just watch it grow. It will need about 8 hours of sun and do NOT overwater it. Just let Mother Nature do the rest.

Reference:

Illinois Garden Guide by James Fizzel

Source:

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